

United Way of Ventura County

LIVE UNITED



GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

E-NEWS FROM YOUR UNITED WAY

March 2017

President's Message

Dear Friends,

Last month, we celebrated the 12th Anniversary of 2-1-1 Ventura County and we're so excited about the launch of the new two-way text system. 2-1-1 is now more convenient than ever and connects people in need by simply texting their zip code to 898211 (TXT211). For example, text 93012 to TXT211 and an operator will respond to serve you just like a call. In the current age of texting more and talking less, clients are served by the new feature Monday through Friday from 8 am-5 pm in English and Spanish.

[Please consider a donation today to celebrate the advancement of this new service and sustain its vital service to our community.](#)

This week is Celebrate AmeriCorps Week when individuals, programs and organizations honor and celebrate the contributions that the almost 80,000 AmeriCorps members throughout the county make to their communities. Serving as an AmeriCorps hub is a perfect fit with United Way's volunteer engagement work and we take this opportunity to share some of the accomplishments of this year's program. Scroll down and hear more from our AmeriCorps partners at First 5 Ventura County, Lutheran Social Services, Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation and Boys and Girls Club of Greater Oxnard/ Port Hueneme about the impact the program is having on their volunteer programs.

Take a moment and read through the newsletter to see what interests you most. Poverty prevention is at the core of everything we do and we invite you to be a part of the change. For 72 years, your local United Way has inspired hope to create opportunities for a better tomorrow. Together, united, lives are changed as a result of our compassion, generosity and willingness to serve others before ourselves. That is what it means to LIVE UNITED.

Give.

To make the greatest difference, direct your contribution to the **Community Impact Fund**, which supports the focus areas of **Education, Income, and Health**. We also process restricted contributions to qualified 501(c)3 organizations. [Thank you for supporting us and your community!](#)



Advocate.

You can make change happen with your voice. United Way needs people who are passionate about education, income, and health to make some noise. Visit us online at: vcunitedway.org/advocate to stay informed. If you would like to become involved in our advocacy work, please email us at: info@vcunitedway.org.

Volunteer.

Get involved in your community! [Find a volunteer opportunity today.](#)

CHANGE
STARTS HERE.
CAN WE COUNT YOU IN?

Eric Harrison
President & CEO
United Way of Ventura County



**United Way of
Ventura County**

To learn more, visit us at:
www.vcunitedway.org

COMPLETE YOUR TAXES FOR FREE THIS YEAR!

In Person
Many Tax Assistance sites give you the ability to schedule an appointment directly. Available if you earned \$54,000 or less.
[Get Started](#)

myfree taxes

Online
File free online through United Way's MyFreeTaxes program. Available if you earned \$64,000 or less.
[Get Started](#)

myfreetaxes.org allows taxpayers with earned income under \$64,000, computer savvy and with an e-mail address to file their tax return for free.

To learn more, visit their website at: www.myfreetaxes.org.

AMERICORPS WEEK - MARCH 4TH - 11TH



United Way of Ventura County is the hub for an AmeriCorps Volunteer Infrastructure program with current partner agencies First 5 Ventura County, Lutheran Social Services, Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation and Boys and Girls Club of Greater

Oxnard/ Port Hueneme. Volunteer Infrastructure Project (VIP) Fellows are AmeriCorps members who build and strengthen sustainable volunteer programs in existing service organizations. VIP Fellows serve by building lasting systems of volunteer engagement and management. Each VIP Fellow dedicates their service to a single Partner Site, working "behind the scenes" of service to enable volunteers to take part in meaningful service positions that meet community needs. VIP Fellows are a part of a statewide network of 120 Fellows, and are placed in small teams of 5 or more in their community who meet regularly for collaboration and training.

Locally some of the projects include: outreach, recruitment and engagement of student volunteers by Teresa Casas at United Way for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program; Leah Moore has been working to build the necessary systems to allow for sustainable and successful volunteer opportunities throughout the 11 First 5 Neighborhoods for Learning; Gena Brooks has been helping to build capacity of the Resident and Community Services Department at Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation. At the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Oxnard and Port Hueneme, Mauricio Lopez has focused on enhancing infrastructure for an existing volunteer program by implementing strategies to ensure that the existing volunteer program runs effectively for current and future volunteers; and at Lutheran Social Services, Merari DeLara is developing a volunteer program that engages high skill-based volunteers, corporate volunteers and special event volunteers, increasing the organization's capacity to serve clients.

When asked to reflect on their AmeriCorps experience, Teresa Casas shared, "my AmeriCorps assignment has allowed me to participate in leadership roles, professional trainings, community building, program planning, volunteer recruitment and management." Leah Moore commented, "This unique experience with First 5 has given me the opportunity to network and build relationships with school districts and other community partners, in addition I have made quick friends of my fellow AmeriCorps Members as we all go through this experience AmeriCorps has to offer." Gena Brooks stated, "my service experience at CEDC has been both positive and rewarding, and I have grown both personally and professionally in my AmeriCorps position working alongside members of the RCS Department." And Merari DeLara shared, "in a short amount of time in my VIP service I've learned a considerable amount about the homeless community and my own understanding of my reasons why I enjoy working in the non-profit sector."

AmeriCorps members give 1700 hours of service over eleven months for which they receive a cash stipend of \$15,000 and an education award of \$5700.

Year two of the AmeriCorps Volunteer Infrastructure Program (VIP) will begin in September. Organizations wanting to learn about the opportunity to participate in the VIP and individuals interested in applying for an AmeriCorps member position should contact Susan Englund at 485-6288, x226 or susan.englund@vcunitedway.org.

CSUCI INTERN KNOWS HOW TO LIVE UNITED!

Otoma Agnew is a graduating Senior at CSU Channel Islands who is majoring in Communication with an emphasis in Business and Nonprofit and minoring in Visual Media Communication, who is originally from a small town in the Central Valley located in Northern California.



When Otoma isn't working or attending classes she can be found exploring through nature, at the beach or at Disneyland for the day; she also is an avid dog lover with two dogs back home, so Otoma has a keen eye for spotting any pooch that may be in the same area as her. Otoma interns at the United Way because she believes that every child should be able to have access to educational and health resources because not only does it help those who are children today, it will also benefit future generations.

Thank you Otoma for LIVING UNITED!

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



**CELEBRATE WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH**

LIVE UNITED*

Women's History Month is an opportunity to reflect on the impact of women throughout history. Women have been the world's most powerful leaders (Cleopatra, Margaret Thatcher, Indira Ghandi), the world's most celebrated scientists (Marie Curie, Dorothy Hodgkin, Barbara McClintock), and the world's most impactful social activists (Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Susan B. Anthony).

There is no better time than this month - than now - to raise our voices and show the impact of women on society. To show little girls and boys all that women have done so they might be inspired. So that these little girls and boys are sure to look at their mothers, sisters, cousins, aunts, and themselves with respect for all the potential of what can be accomplished.

Most of all celebrate! Celebrate all that women have done throughout history. Join United Way of Ventura County in celebrating Women's History Month, and in Living United.

WOMEN UNITED

UNITED WAY OF VENTURA COUNTY

WOMEN UNITED

Women United is an affinity group within United Way's strategic platform. The main focus of Women United is supporting single-mothers in need in Ventura County.

Women United is at the forefront of United Way's movement to build stronger communities. Join a diverse group of women leaders who are engaged with philanthropy, volunteerism and advocacy.

Our women leaders fight for the health, education and financial stability of every person in every community and are dedicated to helping low-income women and their families move out of poverty.

For United Way, whose unique role is bringing people together to solve community problems, women leaders are essential to accelerating lasting change.

With a minimum annual gift of \$1,000 to United Way, Women United offers members opportunities to make a meaningful difference in Ventura County.

**For more information, contact Vicki Raven
805-485-6288 ext. 229 Vicki.Raven@vcunitedway.org**

SAVE THE DATE - 2017 WOMEN UNITED LUNCHEON



SAVE THE DATE

WOMEN UNITED 1ST ANNUAL LUNCHEON
LEADING THE CHARGE. INSPIRING CHANGE.
GUEST SPEAKER - LATEEFAH SIMON

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2017 | 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

LUNDRING EVENT CENTER | 60 West Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks, CA

\$75/TICKET | Tables and Sponsorship Opportunities available now!

RSVP | Vicki.Raven@vcunitedway.org or 805-485-6288 ext. 229



2003
MacArthur Fellow
Named "California
Woman of the Year"
in 2005 by the
California State
Assembly

A tireless advocate and change agent for the underserved, Lateefah devotes her life's work to helping the poor and disadvantaged.



**For more information, contact Vicki Raven
805-485-6288 ext. 229 Vicki.Raven@vcunitedway.org**

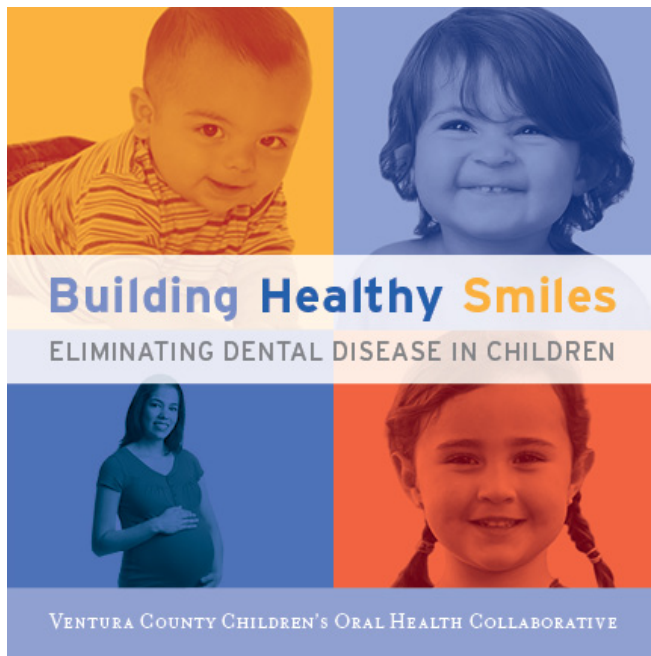
COVERED CALIFORNIA UPDATE

Although open enrollment for Covered CA ended in January, if you have a life change such as a loss of job, birth, marriage or adoption, you may be able to enroll into Covered CA under Special Enrollment. In addition, Medi-Cal enrollment is year-round.

The United Way of Ventura County receives funding to provide free and confidential enrollment services. For any questions about Covered CA or to find out whether you qualify for special enrollment, contact Catherine Pedrosa, Outreach and Education Specialist at (805) 485-6288 x270 or Catherine.pedrosa@vcunitedway.org.



BUILDING HEALTHY SMILES INITIATIVE



With a focus on preventive care, the Building Healthy Smiles Initiative has been working to bring oral health assessment events to children in the community. We are partnering with the Santa Barbara/Ventura Counties Dental Care Foundation on several oral health assessment events at Blackstock Middle School in Oxnard in February, March and April. In addition, we are organizing an oral health assessment event at Mar Vista Elementary on March 29. With our dental partner, Clinicas del Camino Real, we will be doing oral health assessments and applying fluoride varnish to children

at the school. For more information about the community events or to learn about how to bring an event to your school or organization, please contact Catherine Pedrosa, Outreach and Education Specialist at (805) 485-6288 x 270 or Catherine.pedrosa@vcunitedway.org.

JOIN US! CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING



United Way of Ventura County will help you connect your employee teams to meaningful volunteer experiences that impact lives within our focus areas. Whether it's one-day activities or quarterly team building projects, our Volunteer Center is available to assist you through the entire process. No other local nonprofit can connect companies and their employees to socially responsible programs like we can.

For more information contact Teresa Casas
805-485-6288 ext. 233, teresa.casas@vcsunitedway.org.

SAVE THE DATE - 2017 DAY OF CARING



The poster features a blue background with a white central box containing the 'Day of Caring' logo. The logo includes a sun, a hammer, a shovel, and a heart. Below the logo, the text 'SAVE THE DATE DAY OF CARING' is written in white. The date and time 'SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2017 9AM to NOON' are displayed in white on an orange background. The bottom section is red and contains the text 'Volunteer Ventura County Partnership of United Way' and the United Way of Ventura County logo. At the very bottom, contact information for Teresa Casas is provided.

Day of Caring

**SAVE THE DATE
DAY OF CARING**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2017
9AM to NOON**

**Volunteer Ventura County
Partnership of United Way**

United Way of Ventura County

For questions, please call Teresa Casas at (805) 485-6288 ext. 233, or Teresa.Casas@vcsunitedway.org

SAVE THE DATE - 2017 SPIRIT AWARDS GALA

Sponsorship Opportunities are now available for our 13th Annual Spirit Awards Gala taking place on Saturday, August 26th at the Four Seasons Hotel - Westlake Village.

Reserve your spot for this year's Gala TODAY! Contact Vicki Raven to learn more at: 805-485-6288 ext. 229, Vicki.Raven@vcunitedway.org.

[2017 Sponsorship Form - Event Sponsorship Opportunities](#)
[2017 Sponsorship Form - Ads & Ticket options](#)

SAVE THE DATE

Please join us for the
13TH ANNUAL SPIRIT AWARDS GALA

United Way of Ventura County
13th Annual Spirit Awards Gala

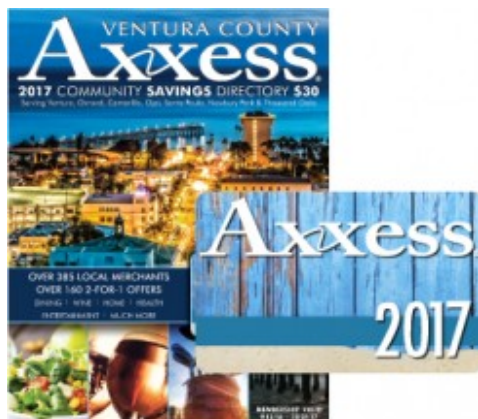
Saturday, August 26, 2017
Four Seasons Hotel,
Westlake Village

Upscale Attire Required

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Vicki Raven at
(805) 485-6288, ext. 229 or email Vicki.Raven@vcunitedway.org
Early bird tickets bought before June 30th \$175 and after \$200

LIVE UNITED
United Way
United Way of Ventura County
vcunitedway.org

2017 AXCESS MEMBERSHIP



We are currently selling 2017 Axxess books, which can be used NOW! The cost of the Axxess book with membership card is \$30. \$10 of every book sold directly benefits United Way. These discount cards sell themselves and are well worth the cost. They are filled with savings offered throughout Ventura County.

To purchase or preview a book, email: amanda.conroy@vcunitedway.org.

AMAZON SMILE

In a few simple steps, you can help support United Way of Ventura County when you shop on Amazon.com.

Step 1: Visit: smile.amazon.com

Step 2: Select a charitable organization from almost one million eligible organizations. We're listed as **United Way of Ventura County**.



Step 3: Once you confirm your designated charity of choice, **YOU'RE DONE!**

Just remember to shop on AmazonSmile at smile.amazon.com and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.05% of the purchase price to your designated charitable organization.

THANK YOU TO OUR TOP SUPPORTERS

Aera Energy LLC - AT&T - Amgen - Automobile Club - Bank of America
California Lutheran University - California State Employees - City of Camarillo
City of Moorpark - Community Memorial Hospital - Costco - County of Ventura
Edison International - Enterprise Holdings - Exxon Mobil Corporation
Farmers Insurance - FedEx - Kaiser Permanente - Macy's - Monsanto
Procter & Gamble - Southern California Gas Co. - Target
United Parcel Service - Union Bank - Wells Fargo Bank

TEXT TO GIVE!

Did you know that United Way of Ventura County has gone mobile? Make a \$10 donation to the United Way's Community Impact Fund using your cellphone. Your donation counts! Simply text the keyword **UWVC** to **41444**. Standard message & data rates apply.

SPREAD THE WORD!

Forward this e-newsletter

You can LIVE UNITED by helping us spread the word. Imagine how many people we could reach if everyone forwards this newsletter to five people.

+ TELL YOUR FRIENDS



United Way of Ventura County, 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., Suite E, Camarillo, CA 93012
Ph: (805) 485-6288 email: info@vcunitedway.org

[Unsubscribe](#)

Questions? Email: info@vcunitedway.org
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